

be unveiled at the Joe Purcell Memorial Dedication Ceremony. The marker will hold a special place of honor in front of the Old Federal Building in Benton, Arkansas.

Joe Purcell spent a lifetime dedicated to the community of Benton and the betterment of the lives of others. While Joe may no longer be with us, the marker placed in his memory will remind others of his commitment to public service and pay tribute to a truly remarkable man. Joe was an admired and cherished member of the Benton, Arkansas community and his memory will continue to live on in the lives he touched and the accomplishments he achieved.

ON BEHALF OF THE BEST  
FRIENDS KINDNESS WEEKEND

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2006*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that this weekend, June 23–25, 2006, has been designated by Best Friends Animals Society as Best Friends Kindness Weekend.

The way a society treats its animals speaks to the core values and priorities of its citizens.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus, I am committed to animal welfare because I believe animals are vital to our livelihood, and I believe humankind has an obligation to all animals. Some species have become our companions, some play important roles in sensitive ecosystems, and some are raised for food. It is our duty to protect and care for all of these animals.

The Best Friends Weekend reminds all of us how animals enrich our lives through their companionship, friendship and love.

This weekend of kindness activities should serve as a reminder to all of us, that in this increasing fragmented society we need to be ever more compassionate about the animals in our world, whether they are companion pets, service animals, zoo critters, livestock, or nature's wildlife. It is a reminder that the bond between humans and animals is a vital one and is capable of bringing joy and healing to people of all ages. It is also a reminder to be more kind and compassionate to our fellow man.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN  
ROBERT "HAL" SMITH

**HON. JON. C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor CAPT Robert Hallock Smith, a dear friend of mine, for his outstanding service to the United States and memorable impact on the State of Nevada, the city of Henderson, and the Southern Nevada Community. Hal passed away on Monday, June 19, 2006 at the age of 89.

Hal was born in Mitchell, South Dakota on February 9, 1917. Shortly thereafter, his family moved to Ellensburg, Washington. Upon graduation from high school, he moved to South-

ern California to attend Pasadena City College and The California Institute of Technology, earning a degree in aeronautical engineering. He later attended La Salle University and the Naval War College, taking courses in command training and international political science.

In the late 1930's, Hal was commissioned as a pilot in the U.S. Navy, and served in active duty in World War II and the Korean War as a division officer on the aircraft carrier USS *Leyte*. Hal worked at the Lake Mead Naval Base and retired as a Navy Captain. He then worked as a partner and manager of Henderson Builders' Supply for 10 years, and was Vice-President for Nevada operations of Prudential Securities/Burrows Smith Division. Hal served on many active service positions including the Henderson Charter Commission, Civil Service Board, Western States Water Council, Clark County Bond Commission, Nevada Ethics Commission, and Nevada State Board of Education. In 1966, Hal was elected to the Nevada State Assembly, serving two terms, and served in the Nevada State Senate from 1988 to 1994. During this time Hal was a member of Rotary Club International, Masonic Lodge, Shriners, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. As a capstone to Hal's career, the Clark County School District honored him by naming a school after him, the Hal Smith Elementary School.

Hal's greatest accomplishment in life was his family. On June 1, 1940, Hal married his love Tina. Together they had three children: Victoria who married Colin Holman; Peter who married Marilyn Mendive; and Christy, who married John Winlow. They also have nine grandchildren, Danny, Marc, Erin, Christian, Derek, Amanda, Hal, Katie, and Whitney, and ten great-grandchildren, Isaiah, Danielle, McKenzie, Thomas, Ava, Benjamin, Maia, Grantham, Delaney, and Alexander.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize CAPT Robert Hallock Smith on the floor of the House. My friend Hal served his family, Southern Nevada, and the United States of America with honor, and he will be greatly missed.

HONORING MR. STEVE HELLER,  
TEACHER AT ADLAI E. STEVENSON  
HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2006*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Steve Heller, a teacher at Adlai E. Stevenson High School, who has been recognized by a Presidential Scholar student or his great skill, knowledge, and dedication in the classroom. It is my pleasure to be able to congratulate Steve on this commendation.

As a shining example within an extremely able and talented staff of teachers, Mr. Heller, achievement reflects the extraordinarily high quality of education available at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. The school's stunning record includes four Blue Ribbon Awards for Excellence in Education and several other prizes. It has been ranked by Newsweek and U.S. News and World Report as one of the top 100 high schools in America. As an integral part of Lincolnshire, Illinois, the perpetuation of its high standards through the efforts of

such outstanding teachers as Mr. Heller is of great benefit to students, parents and the wider community.

Mr. Heller's efforts have recently been highlighted by a nomination from a student on the Presidential Scholars program. This scheme, which started in 1964, sees two students from each state, and an additional 40 at large, selected every year by the U.S. Department of Education for their academic excellence along with exemplary work in community service and the arts.

Each of these star students has, since 1983, been asked to nominate one teacher that they felt was the most challenging and motivational in their academic careers. Mr. Heller was chosen this year for the commendation by his student and Presidential Scholar recipient Michele Trickey.

It is my privilege and pleasure to recognize Steve Heller, whose extraordinary efforts in education make him a beacon to his profession. I call on the House to join me in congratulating him and Michele on their achievements.

HONORING DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL  
CHOIRS AND THE LLANGOLLEN  
INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Davis High School Advanced Treble and Madrigal Choirs as they prepare to perform at the 60th Diamond Anniversary International Musical Eisteddfod to be held in Llangollen, Northern Wales, this July 4th to 9th.

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod began in 1946, following the devastation of World War II, with the mission of promoting international peace through music, song and dance. Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod draws competitors from more than 50 countries. Luminaries such as Luciano Pavarotti and Charlotte Church participated as children in past competitions.

The Davis High School Advanced Treble Choir and Madrigal Choir are the only high school choirs from the United States to compete in the 2006 festival. Davis High School is only the second high school from California ever to represent their state and nation in this prestigious competition. The choirs are greatly honored to be part of an event whose purpose is the promotion of international peace and understanding through the bonds of music and friendship.

At a time when the need for cultural understanding among nations is great, the invitation highlights the choirs' cherished tradition of inclusiveness. Musically, they represent a legacy of more than 30 years for the Madrigal choir and an investment of more than five years in the development of the Advanced Treble choir. The distinguished invitation to Llangollen attests to the reputation built by predecessors and to the support of the wider Davis community. Funds have been raised in the community to ensure that every singer in the choirs is able to make the trip to Wales.